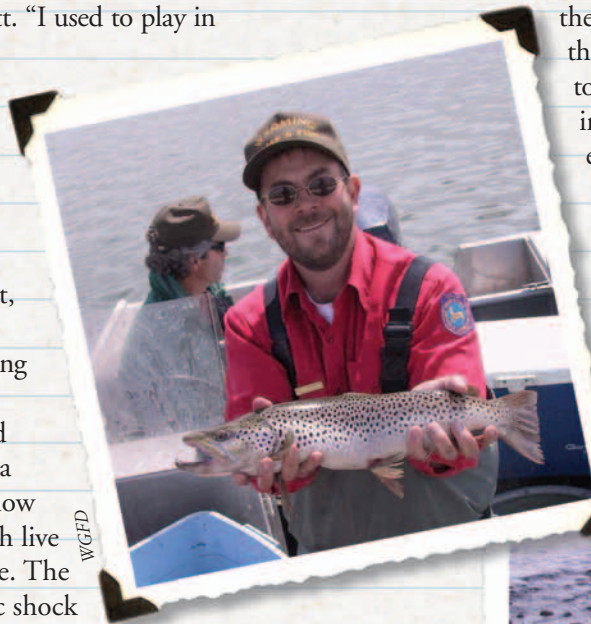# FIELD
Wildlife Journal

Wouldn't it be cool to have a creek running through your back yard? Scott Covington did as a kid in Arkansas. That's how he got interested in water and fish. "I always had an interest in water," says Scott. "I used to play in it all the time, poking at bugs." Later, Scott came to Wyoming to see the West and to study trout in college. "I was amazed that big fish could live in small streams," he says. Working as a fish biologist, Scott still spends a lot of time in water. Electro-fishing is his favorite thing to do. This is how biologists find out how many fish are in a river. They also find out how many different kinds of fish live there and how big they are. The biologists shoot an electric shock into the water. The shock stuns the fish for a few minutes, and they float to the top. Then the biologists can look at them. "One person holds down a foot pedal in the boat," says Scott. "This controls the electricity. Then I pick up the stunned fish with a net." Scott counts the fish, figures out what kind they are and weighs them. Then he releases them in the river. He also looks at frogs,

salamanders, crawdads and other water creatures. "It's important to know about everything in the water," says Scott. He and his fellow biologists learn even more when they talk to people who are out fishing. "We ask them questions like 'How many fish did you catch today?' and 'How many hours did you fish?' All this information we gather from water and from fishermen lets us know if we are doing our jobs well."

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A nice trout from a lake near Laramie.

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The fish biologist and his shock boat.

WHOPPERS

Below are some Wyoming State record fish. Someday you might get into the record books with your own whopper.

FISH	HOW BIG?	WHERE CAUGHT?
Lake trout	50 pounds	Flaming Gorge Reservoir
Ling	19 pounds	Pilot Butte Reservoir
Cutthroat trout	15 pounds	Native Lake
White sucker	~~3 pounds~~	Big Horn River
Rainbow trout	23 pounds	Burnt Lake

A new record was set in 2011! A white sucker weighing 4.4 pounds was caught in the same location!

Biologists handle many strange creatures.

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